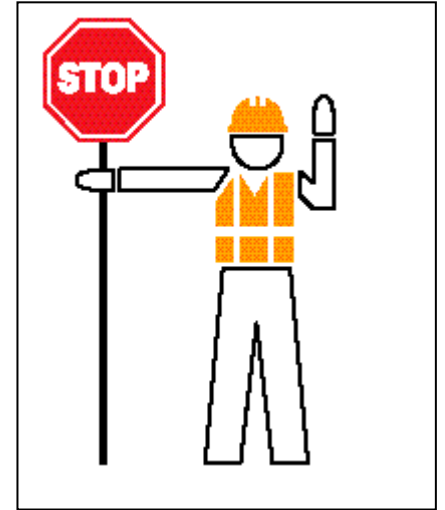


## Work Zone & Flagger Safety Awareness

**Purpose** - To ensure the safety of the passing Motorist and the personnel in the work-zone While repairing, maintaining or constructing A highway, roadway, culvert or bridgework

## References

Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Device  
 Flagger Safety Handbook  
 Work Zone Safety Guidelines flipbook



**Hazards** - The hazards from working in a construction work zone out on the highway are extremely high. Dangerous moving traffic, High Speed, Heavy equipment backing, water hazards, poisonous plants and animals, elevated dump beds, hot & cold environments and more can all affect the health and safety of personnel in the work zone.

## **How Do I combat the Hazards?**



1. **Tail Gate Meetings** - Review the jobsite before the start of the job each day by holding tailgate meetings. Discuss the sign layout, cones and barricades, flaggers and their positions, communication needed to prevent the hazards from occurring, and actions to be taken when a problem arises. Discuss & Share your experiences including near misses & how to avoid them.
2. **Flaggers** - should keep a view of the workers in the work zone and the other flagger as much as possible. This position is one of the most critical. You have opportunity to stop traffic and regulate the flow of the traffic by using the paddles. If you see traffic is moving too fast through the work zone, use the sign to regulate the traffic. Don't just keep the slow sign to the traffic if they are moving too fast. Bring them to a stop if needed and then release them.



3. **Evaluate** - Constantly evaluate the conditions of the traffic and the work zone. If needed, increase the use of cones and signage to help regulate the traffic. Have the supervisor contact the *sheriff's department, highway patrol or local police* to help in the regulation of traffic if speeding is a problem.
4. **Cones** - The use of cones is to separate the working area from the area where traffic will flow. Cones, appropriately spaced, will let the motorist know where they can drive and where not to drive. Increased use of cones has the added benefit of potentially slowing traffic down. It increases visual reference and keeps the driver aware of work zone vs. the traveling lane. For better visibility, ensure we use orange cones are 28" tall with reflective bands.
5. **Signaling devices** - Keep a regular check on the signage throughout the work zone. Pay particular attention to the signage that notifies traffic of the work zone ahead (Advanced Warning) and changing traffic patterns. Make sure that cones are upright and the entire work zone is reviewed several times each day or as needed.





6. **Increase your Visibility** - Increase your visibility by wearing the all required PPE. Orange work vest must be **Class II and reflective**. If work is occurring at night, using perimeter lighting and flashing signs as needed. Bright Orange ball caps should be replace when worn and faded. Flaggers should stand in a position where you they can see oncoming traffic but not in the middle of the road. If you must, move the to the middle only when you have two or three cars stopped. When you release them, move back to the side. When Flagging, **Do Not** position yourself behind large vehicles that will obstruct your view of the work zone and the other flaggers. **Do not** stand just below the crest of a hill or bridge (You're hidden to the motorist). **Don't** stand directly in front of equipment or vehicles where you can be pinned by oncoming traffic. Always face oncoming traffic so that you can anticipate what they are doing and remain visible to the motorist. **Direct** your traffic out of the work area (like crack sealing) and into the designated lane. **Stay Focused & plan an escape route if needed.**
7. **Equipment On-site** - For equipment operated on site, the operator's manuals must stay within the equipment cab. Large pieces of equipment have blind spots in various locations make sure that you are aware of where they are and avoid them. Operators must ensure that they utilize spotters when backing to avoid personnel injury and equipment damage.
8. **Never store any equipment in the buffer zone.** It is an additional space in front of the work-zone to allow for extra stopping distance and protect the workers.
9. **Mobile Operations** – In continuous moving mobile operations (crack sealing, patching or surveying) be flexible according to the safety of all personnel and motorist. Increase signage and cones if needed. Just because you are mobile does not mean your exposure to the dangers of the work zone have decreased. Move your signs up at frequent intervals allowing for traffic to slow and stop if needed at the end of the advanced warning zone. Keeping signs further away may make motorist think you are not there or not working. Keep in mind your 5 parts of the traffic control zone adjusting as you move along.

